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our coastal watersheds*

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Coastal Watershed Council Honors Greg Pepping, Seeks New Executive Director

After twelve and a half years, Greg Pepping will leave the organization by June 30, 2022, to seek new challenges. Board of Directors to begin immediate search for next executive director.

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. – February 7, 2022

The Coastal Watershed Council (CWC) Board of Directors has announced that Executive Director Greg Pepping will leave the organization by June 30, 2022. Pepping and the Board are currently working together to search for the organization's next leader.

CWC has enjoyed growth and increased visibility and relevance during Pepping's twelve-year tenure at the helm. What began in 1995 as a water-quality monitoring group, CWC is now a bold and invaluable leader in habitat restoration, youth education, and riverside placemaking. Today, the watershed protection nonprofit is financially strong and well-regarded as a prominent contributor to the local environmental field.

"Greg's shown such creativity and zeal for the river in leading CWC. The organization has really flourished under his leadership. We're thankful for his service and excited for his next chapter, as we work with him on this transition. We'll miss Greg dearly - and we'll move ahead toward even brighter days for CWC and healthy rivers," CWC Board Chair Jonathan Hicken shared about the announcement.

As the only nonprofit organization solely dedicated to the San Lorenzo River, the Board of Directors will look for a new leader who can build upon the organization's stellar track record and propel it forward towards a river with cleaner water, healthier habitat and more positive public use of the Riverwalk. CWC will seek to leverage funding from the federal infrastructure bill for environmental improvements and investments in the Santa Cruz Riverwalk to fuel its mission and impact.

Pepping said "I've grown so much in this job in twelve years. While it's hard to leave a job I love, I'm honoring a clear voice within me that this is the right time to change direction. I'm genuinely, deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with the community in this role. It's been a blessing, a calling. Thank you to everyone who's shown such care for nature, for CWC, for me."

About the Coastal Watershed Council

The Coastal Watershed Council, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was formed in 1995 in response to the declining health of watersheds connected to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. CWC's mission is to preserve and protect coastal watersheds through community stewardship, education and monitoring. All work the organization does takes place on unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi tribe.

CWC's work is guided by its values of equity, learning, inclusion and resilience, and by a theory of change with an accompanying logic model and measurable objectives. Over the past 26 years, CWC has trained thousands of

volunteers and educated thousands of students to monitor water quality, enhance habitat and preserve and protect the natural resources along California's Central Coast. Today, CWC uses this expertise to help to empower youth and adults to revitalize the San Lorenzo River. CWC invites the community to get involved today by calling (831) 464-9200 or visiting the CWC website at www.coastal-watershed.org.